

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWOLD.

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year 1948 by

Alan A. Gilmour M.D. ChB. D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough
of Southwold.

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on
the health of the Borough for the year 1948.

I must acknowledge my indebtedness to the Town
Clerk, the Sanitary Inspector and all other Borough Officials
for their unfailing assistance during the course of the year
which has passed.

General Statistics:-

Area in acres	-	624
Registrar General's Estimate of the population (Mid 1948)	-	2445
No. of inhabited houses	-	1116
Rateable Value	-	£23100

Vital Statistics:-

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate Live Births	17	18	35
Illegitimate Live Births	1	1	2
Total Live Births	18	19	37

Birth Rate:-

per 1,000 resident population

= 15.47
(England and Wales 17.9)

Stillbirths:-

Nil.

Maternal Mortality:- Nil.Infantile Mortality:-

Deaths of infants under one year of age

<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
1	-	1

This gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 27.03
per 1,000 live births.

<u>Deaths:-</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
	39	15	26

Death Rate:-

per 1,000 estimated population = 16.3
(England and Wales 10.8)

Causes of Death:-

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Heart Disease	4	11
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	2	4
Other diseases of Respiratory System.	1	1
Diseases of digestive system	1	1
Pneumonia	-	1
Cancer	3	5
Diabetes	-	1
T.B. of Respiratory System	1	-
Any other causes	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>13</u>	<u>26</u>

Comparative Table for last five years:-

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	E & W 1948	London 1948
Population	1511	1756	2209	2397	2391	-	-
Births	35	31	36	44	37	-	-
Birth Rate per 1,000	23.16	17.6	16.3	18.35	15.47	17.9	20.1
Deaths	32	41	33	47	39	-	-
Death Rate per 1,000	21.2	23.34	14.94	15.4	16.3	10.8	11.6
Infant Deaths	1	2	1	-	1	-	-
Infantile Mortality Rate	28.57	32.26	55.5	22.7	27.03	41	37

Infectious Diseases:-

No single case of diphtheria was notified during the course of the year.

During the year the following cases of infectious disease were notified:-

Disease	No.	Admitted to Hospital	Died.
Measles	9	-	-
Pneumonia	6	-	-
Whooping Cough	23	-	-
Dysentery	2	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-
Total	<u>41</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

(1947:- 111 cases Notified)

Isolation Hospital Accommodation:-

Such cases as require isolation treatment are cared for at Lowestoft Isolation Hospital. Cases of infectious disease are removed to hospital by the Lowestoft Isolation Hospital Ambulance. During 1948 no case required Hospitalisation.

Venercal Diseases.

The treatment of these diseases is carried out at the V.D. Clinic, Lowestoft and North Suffolk Hospital.

Ambulance Facilities:-

The Southwold Ambulance Section of the British Red Cross society provides a motor ambulance, available for all services required. This service continues to prove adequate and satisfactory.

Diphtheria Immunisation:-

Immunisation against diphtheria was proceeded with at various sessions held within the school at Southwold.

The following figures are supplied by the East Suffolk Public Health Department with regard to the number of children immunised in Southwold

	<u>1948</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1946</u>
Pre-School population (0-5)	196	190	160
School population (5-15)	232	250	243
Percentage pre-school children immunised	36.2%	31.5%	25%
Percentage all children immunised	56.5%	51.8%	44.9%

During the year "booster" or reinforcing doses were given to school children in Southwold.

With regard to the pre-school figures, it must be remembered that this percentage is based on the total number of pre-school children (0-5) residing within the Borough, and that children do not become eligible for immunisation until after they have attained the age of nine months. If this fact is taken into consideration it will be obvious that the pre-school children immunised in proportion to the number of children eligible for immunisation is considerably higher than the figure given, but still open to improvement.

The facilities for immunisation are provided and only apathy on the part of the parents prevents a much higher percentage of immunised children within the Borough.

Diphtheria Antitoxin.

Diphtheria Antitoxin which is provided for general practitioners for therapeutic and prophylactic purposes is stored at the Town Hall and is always available.

Tuberculosis:-

At the beginning of the year the following cases were on the Tuberculosis Register.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pulmonary	9	3	12
Non-Pulmonary	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>
	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>20</u>

During the year the following cases were added to the register by notification.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30120998>

	<u>Pulmonary.</u>	<u>Non-pulmonary.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Male	3	1	4
Female	<u>2</u> 5	<u>1</u> 2	<u>3</u> 7

During the same period the following cases were removed from the register.

	<u>Pulmonary.</u>	<u>Non-pulmonary.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Male	2	-	2
Female	<u>1</u> 3	<u>1</u> 1	<u>2</u> 4

This leaves the following cases on the register at the end of the year 1948.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pulmonary	10	4	14
Non-Pulmonary	<u>3</u> 13	<u>6</u> 10	<u>9</u> 23

This represents an increase of three cases over the figure for the previous year.

As was stated in last year's report the hospital and sanatorium accommodation still remains inadequate, although a certain degree of improvement has been noticeable during the past twelve months.

Infant Welfare Clinic.

At present the Borough possesses no Infant Welfare Clinic. It is to be hoped that this will be forthcoming in the very near future.

Public Health Officers:-

Medical Officer of Health:-

Alan A. Gilmour,
M.D. ChB. D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:-

Mr. W.J. Goldfinch.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant.

Alan Gilmour.

18. 5. 49.

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWOLD.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Sanitary conditions in Southwold for the year 1948.

Housing.

During the year the erection of 40 Council Houses at Reydon has been completed and all are now occupied.

The erection of two flats and six houses for Aged persons at Bartholomew Green has also been completed.

Generally housing property in the Borough has been maintained in a sanitary condition, appropriate action having been taken in cases of sanitary and structural defects which have been found.

Water Supply.

Water is provided from the mains of the Southwold Water Company. There is a plentiful supply at all times and the quality is high.

Sewerage.

The sewerage system has been maintained in good working order and minor improvements at the Disposal works are in progress with a view to improving the effluent.

The ejectors and compressor plant have needed frequent attention. The plant is over 50 years old and its replacement will require consideration at an early date.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

House Refuse is collected by the Contractor whose work has been entirely satisfactory throughout the year. The Refuse is destroyed by incineration at the Destructor works and no cause for complaint has arisen.

Rats and Mice Disinfestation.

The Rodent Operator has carried out useful work in the disinfestation of houses and business premises. The Sewerage system has been disinfested during the year.

Meat and Food Inspection.

No slaughtering is done in the Borough. All homekilled meat is supplied from the Area Abattoir at Beccles where slaughtering and dressing is under supervision of the meat Inspector.

Meat found to be unfit for human consumption was condemned on two occasions.

Voluntary surrender of unfit food has been made from time to time by shop keepers, the principal items being defective canned goods due to damaged and blown tins.

Bakeries have been kept in a clean condition.

Factories and Workshops.

All sanitary requirements under the Factory and Workshops Acts have been fully complied with by the proprietors and proper fire precautions maintained.

General.

The Borough has been maintained in a clean and sanitary condition throughout the year. Reinstatement of war damaged property is proceeding and the redecoration of many buildings which had been neglected during the war is gradually improving the general appearance of the Town.

W. J. GOLDFINCH

Sanitary Inspector.

